



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1522-0567

FRIDAY
MARCH 17, 2006
VOL. 53 NO. 33

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices in the major terminal markets were 1 cent lower in the West, unchanged in the East and Midwest when compared to a week earlier. Retail demand was light to no better than fair entering the weekend. Food service demand was reported as only fair in most areas. Supplies of all sizes were adequate to ample with heavier weights readily available and competitively priced. The undertone was unsettled and barely steady. In the parts structure, interest was light with buyers cautious and limiting orders from regular suppliers and then only on a as needed basis. Tenders were in the best position, but still sufficient for full trade needs. Balance of items were at least adequate to ample. In production areas, live supplies were mostly moderate; weights were in a full range.

Preliminary report Prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 20-MAR-2006 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A

(Including branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	51.00-54.00	40.00-68.75	52.52	27
New York	53.00-56.00			
Los Angeles	75.00			
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	65.00-68.00	53.00-72.00	67.23	94

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 68.25 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
944	64.52-70.00	68.09
Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice-packed parts:	WTD. AVG.	VOLUME
ITEM	(CENTS PER POUND)	(000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	138.00	1,216
BREASTS - B/S	112.00	5,674
BREASTS - WHOLE	58.00	1,298
THIGH MEAT - B/S	74.00	1,081
LEG QUARTERS	17.50	8,564
WINGS	94.00	2,930

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS The preliminary majority price for next week's delivery into the Chicago area was unchanged from Monday's final majority price. Whole fryer market tone was barely steady to weak. Additional offerings were adequate to instances ample for the light trade call. Retail demand was light to instances moderate at best. Movement into food service sectors was light to moderate with fast food sectors fair to good and capturing most interest. Floor stocks were balanced to long, while sizes were mostly desirable, instances heavy. Parts supplies were fully available with limited trade interest despite aggressive discounting efforts. The trade sentiment was steady on tenders, barely steady to weak on boneless skinless breasts, and weak on dark meat cuts.

SOUTHERN BROILER Trade sentiment was at best steady. Demand was light to moderate, mostly light for the available offerings. Supplies of all sizes were adequate to fully adequate for the irregular but usually limited needs. In the parts structure, movement was fair at best with most items adequate to ample and often discounted to help clear. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at generally desirable weights.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices were 1 cent lower than Monday's final. The market was weak, with trading reported at lower prices for next weeks' delivery. Offerings were ample, with heavy weights reported at discounted levels. Buying activity was generally light, with interest in excess product slow to materialize. Demand by retail moderate overall. Dealers anticipated moderate at best carryovers.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was light to no better than fair entering the weekend. Offerings of 3 pound and smaller sizes were at least adequate; heavier sizes were readily available and discounted in most instances. Retail and distributive movement was mostly light. The market tone remained unsettled. In the parts complex, breast items were fully adequate. Leg cuts, wings and boneless skinless thigh meat were at least adequate to ample. Tenders were sufficient.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds increased in instances entering the weekend, however, overall activity remained light to fair at best. Seller offerings were fully adequate for both immediate and early next week delivery. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights were desirable to heavy. Processor schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 54 to 69 cents. Trade sentiment was unsettled. In the parts complex, buying interest improved for the adequate to fully adequate supply of breast cuts. Leg quarters were in heavy supply and slow to clear. Wings were ample.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A

RANGE	43-74
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	(A)
NO. OF BOXES	(A)
CUMULATIVE	03/13/06-03/17/06 (A)
	03/14/05-03/18/05 (A)
NO. OF BOXES	03/13/06-03/17/06 (A)
	03/14/05-03/18/05 (A)

(A)Not reported to avoid disclosing individual operations

MAR 16

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MAR 17

	POUNDS				WTD	POUNDS					WEEKLY	
ITEM	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG		(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	WTD AVG	
BREAST - B/S	615	78.00-145.00	-	91.64		665	80.00-145.00	85-90	93.59	3,150	93.09	
TENDERLOINS	213	85.00-142.00	90-95	93.64		178	90.00-147.00	93-98	96.16	1,027	98.81	
BREAST - LINE RUN	110	49.00-60.00	50-55	54.09		116	50.00-60.00	54-56	53.88	479	55.45	
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT					TOO FEW TO REPORT				305	59.57	
LEGS	140	16.00-42.00	17-20	17.86		140	18.00-42.00	19-20	19.57	692	19.34	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	626	10.00-22.00	11-13	11.97		561	11.00-22.00	12-13	12.79	2,956	13.10	
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,130	14.00-25.00	15-16	16.89		1,090	14.00-25.00	15-18	16.83	5,450	16.88	
WINGS (WHOLE)	295	75.00-99.00	83-87	88.02		295	70.00-99.00	75-79	80.64	1,455	84.75	
WINGS (CUT)	295	95.00-103.00	97-100	99.81		280	94.00-102.00	95-99	97.09	1,385	98.96	
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT					TOO FEW TO REPORT				334	22.80	
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT					TOO FEW TO REPORT				189	22.48	
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT					TOO FEW TO REPORT				350	52.77	
*****						*****						
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS						WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS						
TRADING FOR MAR 16, 2006 -- F.O.B. DOCK.						TRADING FOR MAR 17, 2006 -- F.O.B. DOCK.						

RANGE**TODAY'S AVERAGE**

34.00 - 42.00

35.99

RANGE**TODAY'S AVERAGE**

34.00 - 41.00

35.63

5-DAY AVERAGE

36.36

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS - Trucklot buying activity remained light and unaggressive entering the weekend as dealers were selective and limited orders to most immediate needs. Offerings of breast items were fully adequate; leg cuts, wings and boneless skinless thigh meat were at least adequate to readily available and slow to clear. Tenders were mostly adequate. Movement through retail and distributive channels was light to no better than fair. The market tone was steady for tenders. The balance of items were about steady to weak. ICE PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND

MAR 16

CURRENT NEG**WTD**

ITEM	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	105	98.11	613,160
TENDERLOINS	95-100	95.54	198,760
BREAST - WITH RIBS	56-57	60.41	105,400
BREAST - LINE RUN	56	58.22	81,000
LEGS	29-30	31.31	292,080
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	15-16	16.68	212,000
DRUMSTICKS	20-21	24.50	113,800
THIGHS	24-25	33.47	39,280
B/S THIGHS	70-71	72.37	107,680
WINGS (WHOLE)	77-78	80.37	219,180
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.33	62,680
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	25-30	27.17	17,080
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	50.63	10,240

CURRENT NEG**WTD**

TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	WTD AVG	VOL/LBS
105	97.14	784,920	98.85	3,056,280
95-100	92.50	185,280	97.52	961,264
56-57	68.78	76,000	62.61	515,960
56	58.00	81,000	57.96	432,000
29-30	28.99	404,060	28.73	1,425,540
15-16	15.42	237,440	17.21	1,424,640
20-21	24.46	113,640	25.11	563,140
24-25	32.69	53,240	31.94	263,220
69-70	67.49	133,920	68.25	582,600
76-77	81.68	224,680	81.86	1,036,780
10-12	11.23	19,360	11.83	150,360
25-30	26.81	15,240	27.42	99,760
45-50	53.02	15,400	50.68	83,480

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WT		ACTUAL		AVG WTS	
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Alabama	03/17	03/16	03/15	03/14	03/15	03/14	03/10	03/08		
Arkansas	4,170	4,056	3,872	4,022	5.30	5.32	4,211	5.50		
Delmarva	5,305	5,378	5,282	5,078	5.10	5.10	5,288	5.10		
KY-LA-TN	2,205	2,236	2,153	2,559	5.65	5.71	2,214	5.60		
Mississippi	2,269	2,264	2,234	2,213	4.97	5.09	2,180	5.03		
North Carolina	3,378	2,940	2,946	2,860	5.67	5.81	3,235	5.65		
Texas	2,687	2,619	2,509	2,586	6.79	6.76	2,620	6.76		
Total	2,494	2,492	2,522	2,543	5.28	5.32	2,388	5.25		
Mon-Fri	22,508	21,985	21,518	21,548	5.47	5.52	22,136	5.50		
Saturday	109,706(A)						106,987(A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 17-Mar-06 and 18-Mar-06 is estimated to be 33,674,000 head up 1.38 percent from a week ago and up 5.24 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 33,217,000, last year 31,998,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 18-Mar-06 is estimated to be 162,471,000 head up 1.16 percent from a week ago, and up 3.26 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 160,615,000, last year 157,335,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	95-98
ROASTERS 4# & UP	97-106
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	65-73
DUCKS	-
RABBITS WHOLE	-
CUT UP	-

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK 89-105
	DRY PACK 114
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK 100
	DRY PACK 118
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK 88-102
	DRY PACK 109-109
DUCKS	185-190

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 04-Mar-06 (Preliminary),

(A) Fast food/ (B) Retail (C) Deboning
Food service
4.20 Lbs. & down 4.21-5.25 Lbs. 5.26 Lbs. & Up

	-----THOUSANDS-----		
Head	26,554	19,671	52,345
Avg Weight	3.77	4.75	6.37
% of total /1	27%	20%	53%

Comparisons

Last week	22,203	22,565	56,138
Avg Weight	3.82	4.68	6.46
% of total /1	22%	22%	56%

Same week, yr ago /2	26,451	23,762	51,490
Avg Weight	3.56	4.70	6.35
% of total /1	26%	23%	51%

To date/2006	238,620	159,548	487,775
To date/2005	234,348	192,182	432,813

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding. /2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION (Preliminary)

W/E 11-MAR-2005	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
Head	160,615	977	1,580	2,557	526
Avg Wt	5.32	3.36	7.75	6.07	6.79
Last week	158,348	1,095	1,527	2,622	503
Same wk yr ago	157,630	1,720	1,317	3,037	506
Avg Wt	5.16	3.38	7.99	5.38	6.68
To-date/2006	1,602,358	12,514	14,216	26,730	5,032
To-date/2005	1,568,694	14,535	12,919	27,454	5,087

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 164.2 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period was 162.6 million head, or 1.6 million less than estimated available.

ESTIMATED U.S. FRYER SLAUGHTER/ FRYER AVAILABILITY COMPARISON

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
February 4	165.3	165.4	100%	5.45
11	166.5	164.0	102%	5.41
18	164.3	164.0	100%	5.38
25	160.4	163.9	98%	5.48
March 4	160.3	163.4	98%	5.34
11	162.6	164.2	99%	5.32
Year to date	1621.8	1628.7	100%	
March 18		164.3		
25		164.9		

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER

Under Federal Inspection

W/E	03/18/06	03/11/06	% CHG	03/19/05	% CHG
Broilers	162,471	160,615*	+1.16	157,335*	+3.26
Cattle	623	619	+01	592*	+05
Hogs	2,009	2,000	0	1,935*	+04

*ACTUAL

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 13-MAR-2006

DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	151-155	157-161
MOSTLY		

MIDWEST	132-142	133-143
MOSTLY		

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED, CENTS PER POUND

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	53.00-58.00	56.00-57.00
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	64.00-86.00	71.00-75.00

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	63.36-72.90
14 OZ.	69.84-81.00
16 OZ.	74.88-89.10

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices remained unchanged. The trade sentiment was steady. Demand was moderate to instances fairly good. Supplies were adequate for current needs. Weights were desirable. Schedules full time. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$3.50-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.45-1.95, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$0.50-0.65, livers at \$0.95-1.70, and feet at \$1.00-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 13-MAR-2006

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	126-146	128-148

GRAYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION - DATE OF AUCTION: 03-07-06

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

Prices paid per pound, except as noted.	RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	.75 - .80
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.75 - .80
Pekin Ducks	3.00 - 3.50ea.
Red Fowl 4-5 LBS	.35 - .40
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.50 - .60
Crossbred Fowl 5-9 LBS	.55 - .60
Crossbred Roosters 4-6 LBS	.70 - .90
Crossbred Roosters 7-11 LBS	.60 - .70
Guinea Fowl	1.40 - 1.50ea.
Banty Roosters	2.50 - 3.00ea.
Banty Hens	1.25 - 1.50ea.
Silkie	4.00 - 4.50ea.
Geese 9-14 LBS	.20 - .35
Pigeons	4.75 - 5.00ea.
White Pigeons	6.00 - 6.10ea.
Rabbits 4-6 LBS	2.70 - 2.72ea.
Rabbits 6-9 LBS	2.55 - 2.65ea.
Bunnies	4.00 - 12.00ea.
Guinea Pigs	3.00 - 9.00ea.
Goats	45.00 - 50.00ea.
Kid Goats	35.00 - 45.00ea.
Doves	4.00 - 4.50ea.
Pullets 4-6 LBS	.70 - .80

Total Coops Sold 560

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Trading was too few to report for heavy cannery; unchanged to slightly lower on lights when compared to the previous week. Offerings of light cannery was fully sufficient for the light and unaggressive demand; most available supplies of heavy cannery were being used internally with demand generally fair. Offerings were at least adequate for current trade needs. Processing schedules were mostly normal to less than. The undertone was no better than steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
18-28 MAJORITY 23.5-24.5	TOO FEW SALES TO REPORT

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
20-29 MAJORITY 24-25.5	TOO FEW SALES TO REPORT

LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS (INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HENS Prices were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was fair to at least moderate, best into rendering operations. Offerings of spent hens were at least adequate for current needs. Processing schedules were normal to less than normal. Trade sentiment was steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	3-12	8-10

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HENS Disposal costs were TFEWR. Demand was light for ample offerings of light hens. Schedules were reduced. Sales of processed hens were light. Salvage values were expected to remain constant.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HENS Removal prices were unchanged. Demand was light to moderate with offerings adequate. Trade sentiment steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	2-10	5-9

WEST COAST LIGHT Plant schedules light to moderate. Offerings lighter.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 20-MAR-06

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Trading levels were too few to report. Demand was fair for fully adequate offerings of spent hens. Schedules were as desired. Finished sales were fair. Trade sentiment was about steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was about fair to moderate at best for the adequate to fully adequate offerings of spent hens. Processing schedules for next week were noted as normal to less than normal. Sales of finished product was fair. The undertone was no better than steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS, POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES

Washington, DC	Voice	(202)720-6911	Mike Sheats,
	Fax	(202)720-2403	Chief
Atlanta, GA	Voice	(404)562-5850	Johnny Freeman,
	Fax	(404)562-5875	Officer-In-Charge
Jackson, MS	Voice	(601)965-4662	Gary Brown,
	Fax	(601)359-1175	Southern States Area Supervisor
Des Moines, IA	Voice	(515)284-4471	Mary L. Adkins,
	Fax	(515)284-4468	Officer-In-Charge
	Recorded	(515)284-4545	
Long Beach, CA	Voice	(562)388-7337	Jim Derby,
	Fax	(562)432-8295	Officer-in-Charge
	Recorded	(213)534-1335	